



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 26, 2002

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Fall Approaches with Cooler Weather and More Rains

The week ended with more seasonal temperatures. Farmers around most of the state were glad to receive more moisture to finish the growing season. There were heavy rains reported in some areas of the state halting fieldwork, but overall, most people were happy to see more moisture. Crops in the northern tier of counties appear in good shape. The midsection and southern counties were helped with more moisture, but it may be too late to help the corn recover.

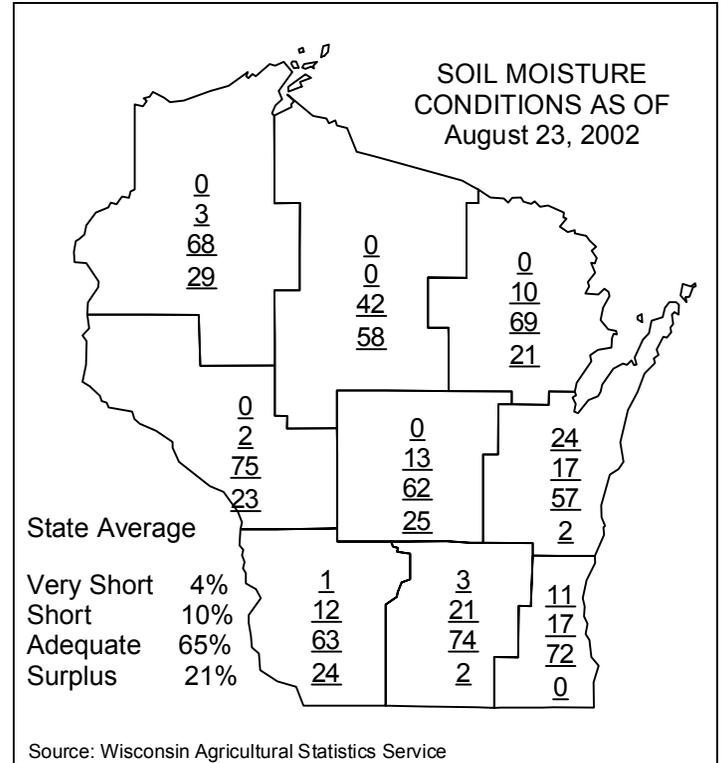
There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 4 percent very short, 10 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus.

Corn and **soybean** conditions improved over last week. The added moisture in the south may be too late to help with corn that is past pollination. Reports of ears not fully filled have appeared. The rains will help ear size. In the north, lodging occurred due to rootworm problems, especially on corn after corn ground. It appeared to be less of a problem on rotated fields. The overall crop looked better, statewide. At the week's end, 68 percent of the crop was in the dough stage, and 22 percent was in the dent stage. Some corn was tested in Jefferson County for silage suitability. Late season rains will help soybeans to set pods and fill out the bean. Soybeans setting pods for the week were at 93 percent, which is 22 percentage points higher than last year and 8 percentage points higher than the 5-year average.

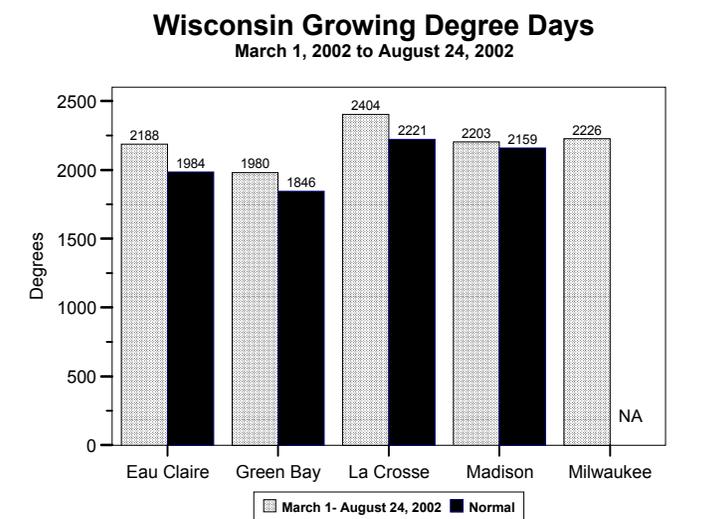
The progress of **hay** harvest was slowed due to rains over a number of days across the state. Rusk County reported that fields were too wet to drive on after heavy rains. The rains were beneficial to fourth crop growth and new seedings. Third crop harvest progressed to 58 percent, compared to 46 percent, statewide, last week. Quality has been good to very good, but quantity has been down due to an earlier lack of moisture. Spraying for leafhoppers continued.

Small grain harvest wound down across the state. **Oat** harvest was 94 percent complete, compared to 87 percent complete last week. Yields have proven to be variable, with test weights reported lighter than usual. Late-harvested oats dealt with heavy weed infestations in northern counties. **Rye** harvest will begin in Vilas County soon.

Tobacco harvest was in full swing in Dane County last week. **Apple** harvest has begun across the state. In Washington County, **sweet corn** yields are expected to be below average.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	2	7	28	54	9
Corn	5	9	25	43	18
Soybean	2	6	24	51	17



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 25, 2002

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dough stage	60	62	55	67	68	63	75	74	72	68	34	58
Corn in dent stage	16	15	14	20	23	17	26	28	25	22	0	15
Soybeans setting pods	90	86	88	93	91	90	96	95	97	93	71	85
Oats harvested	90	88	91	94	96	93	99	99	99	94	85	90
Third cutting hay	41	40	42	60	53	63	72	74	74	58	55	50

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-K.S.: Third crop hay quality is looking good; yields are down. Some corn suffered hail damage early in the week.

Soybean crop is looking the best it has in several years. It has also been a good year for fresh-picked sweet corn

RUSK-G.P.: Even established hayfields are too soft to be on. Disease pressure is heavy on all crops. Weed pressure also continues.

POLK-C.S.: Aphid populations in soybeans are increasing, spraying is becoming necessary. Corn and soybeans still look very good.

MARATHON-M.K.: Corn is very good. Soybeans are great, with big yields to come. Third crop hay was a nice crop.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Harvesting hay and small grains has been difficult due to excess rain. Corn is looking good despite the late start this spring. Small grain yields vary greatly from field to field due to wet conditions.

FOREST-A.K.: Corn and soybeans look good so far. First and second crop hay is about done, no third crop hay.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Third crop haying is about finished. Very little corn dented. Soybean pods are pretty small.

DUNN-R.H.: All crops look good. Third crop hay is short, but excellent quality. An abundance of rootworm and corn borers.

EAU CLAIRE-M.P.: Crops look very good. Third crop hay making is progressing well. Would guess that corn silage harvest is three weeks away.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Hot weather in late July has cut down on local snap bean yields. Some third hay crop cutting is trying to be put up in between showers.

WAUPACA-G.K.: Most hayfields look quite good, except where short of moisture. Most corn fields are better than normal, with only a few drowned spots.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Received some good rain the past few days. Really good for corn and hay.

FOND DU LAC-V.F.: Some soybeans turning color. Will not be any fourth crop hay; too dry.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Some oats to combine yet. Third crop hay was fairly even quality and quantity. Crops have nice color.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: The third crop alfalfa was very good on quality, but some was short on quantity. Corn and soybeans are progressing nicely, thanks to the timely rains in our area.

GRANT-L.F.: Third crop hay is very good; it is top quality, also, yields are better than usual. Haven't seen many pests in hay or corn. Some weeds showing up in corn fields. Pastures perked up with recent rain. Have some excellent soybeans in our area; tall and very green in color. Corn is really green and getting good length to its ears. Most vegetables have real good quality; green beans and potatoes are ready to harvest.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: We received 3.5 inches of very welcome rain on Wednesday and Thursday. This will make the soybeans and corn crop better. Pastures already look better.

DANE-D.F.: Alfalfa regrowth jumped with rains last week. Corn silage moisture ranged from 73 to 78 percent depending on weather stress. Soybeans are being watched closely for the next generation of bean leaf beetle.

DODGE-L.P.: Third crop hay was short, weeds are a problem in direct-seeded hay. My soybeans look very good. Some uneven fields of corn.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: Damage was done in corn fields. Pollination problems are distinctly visible. With shrunken kernels on one side of the ear, I am estimating at least a 25 percent yield decrease. Soybeans have stopped blooming and started filling pods. I have seen many dropped pods laying in the fields. Soybeans may fare a little better, but a lot will depend on the weather. Pastures are still poor. Sweet corn is about two weeks away.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Third cut alfalfa is poor. Corn is very bad. Soybeans need time.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 25, 2002

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Aug. 24	Mar. 1 to Aug. 24 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	76	58	85	47	67	-1	2188	1984	3.40	16.02	4.25	27.88
Green Bay	74	56	81	47	65	-2	1980	1846	1.79	10.86	1.17	20.87
La Crosse	78	60	83	49	69	-2	2404	2221	0.87	12.91	1.39	22.66
Madison	78	59	87	49	68	0	2203	2159	1.11	8.83	-2.49	19.70
Milwaukee	76	61	86	57	69	-1	2226	n.a.	1.55	10.20	0	20.77

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.